

AFRICAN RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the requirements to apply for the African Research Fellowship?

Eligible students must be citizens of African countries and currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program. Projects must be field-oriented investigations of natural history, conservation, ecology, systematics, wildlife biology, biogeography, or behavior.

Do I have to be a member of the American Society of Mammalogists to apply?

No. Successful applicants will be awarded an online membership to the ASM. However, we encourage applicants to consider becoming a member of the ASM if you want to become a professional mammalogist. Student and developing country memberships are discounted from the regular rate and include useful benefits for members. In addition, your dues support graduate research in the field of mammalogy. Please see www.mammalogy.org/committees/african-research-fellowship for further details.

Can I apply again if I applied last year but did not receive an award?

Yes, we encourage eligible applicants to use the feedback they received on initial applications to improve their proposals and apply again. You may apply again each year you are eligible, but you cannot win an award twice for the same project, and you cannot win the award more than twice.

Should I add figures, graphs, or tables to my project description?

Figures, graphs, and tables are not required, but good ones often improve an application. However, note that they count toward the 2-page limit for project descriptions.

Should I add a separate list of references?

This is optional but encouraged. If you choose to include a list of references, it does not count toward the limit for project descriptions.

Do I need a letter of recommendation in support of my application?

No. We require only that graduate advisors send a 2-4 sentence email to Jesse Alston (jmalston@arizona.edu) verifying the applicant's status as a currently enrolled graduate student. Do not have your advisor send an attached letter.

Will you accept applications in languages besides English?

We encourage applications to be submitted in English or French if applicants can communicate ideas effectively in these languages. We will not penalize you for your command of the language. However, if you feel you cannot communicate your ideas in English or French, you can use another language for applications or advisor emails.

How can I improve my chances of success?

Successful applications are well written, concise, and present a clear study plan, generally with at least one explicit, testable hypothesis. It is strongly recommended that you solicit feedback on early drafts of your application from your advisor, a thesis committee member, or a trusted colleague familiar with competitive grantwriting.